

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Senator Cannella

March 13, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to the Soledad Correctional Officers Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 23, as amended, Cannella. Soledad State Prison Correctional Officers Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 101 in the County of Monterey as the Soledad State Prison Correctional Officers Memorial Highway ~~to honor~~ *honoring* John V. Mills, William C. Shull, Robert J. McCarthy, and Kenneth E. Conant ~~with their names included in the designation of the highway~~. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Between January 1970 and May 1971, ~~four~~ *three*
- 2 correctional officers *and a correctional employee* were attacked
- 3 and killed in the line of duty at the California Department of
- 4 Corrections and Rehabilitation Correctional Training Facility,
- 5 formerly known as the Soledad State Prison, in a string of violent
- 6 inmate uprisings; and

1 WHEREAS, John V. Mills, born on July 19, 1944, in Riverside,
2 California, grew up in Fresno, attended Long Beach State College,
3 served two years in the Army, and had just been assigned to the
4 medium security Y-Wing in relief of another officer who was on
5 vacation; and

6 WHEREAS, On January 16, 1970, Officer Mills was locked in
7 the cell block with 95 inmates, and was attacked and beaten to
8 death at approximately 6:30 p.m. by inmates in retaliation for the
9 shooting deaths of three other inmates at the prison; and

10 WHEREAS, Officer Mills was a 14-month veteran correctional
11 officer of the prison and resident of Monterey, who left a widow,
12 Bernadette, and a son, Michael Lee; and

13 WHEREAS, William C. Shull, born on June 13, 1930, in
14 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, attended Gettysburg High School, served
15 22 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant,
16 and was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, On July 23, 1970, Officer Shull was assigned to
19 the recreational building 1-Yard exercise area in relief of another
20 officer who was unable to work that day, and was found lifeless
21 at 9:30 a.m. by an inmate, having been beaten and stabbed to death
22 by inmates in retaliation for the shooting deaths of three other
23 inmates at the prison; and

24 WHEREAS, Officer Shull was a one-year veteran correctional
25 officer of the prison and resident of Seaside, who left a widow,
26 Kazuko, and four girls, Gracie, Sarah, Betty, and Rose; and

27 WHEREAS, Robert J. McCarthy, born on August 8, 1927, in
28 Oklahoma, served 21 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of
29 Sergeant; and

30 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1971, Officer McCarthy was
31 conducting a count of the inmates in X-Wing, at 11:15 p.m., when
32 an inmate, claiming he needed to mail a letter, lured Officer
33 McCarthy to his cell door and stabbed him; and

34 WHEREAS, Valiant efforts by hospital staff and an inmate in
35 the infirmary stabilized Officer McCarthy's condition, but he died
36 after he was transferred to the military hospital at Fort Ord; and

37 WHEREAS, Officer McCarthy was a veteran correctional officer
38 of the prison since 1966 and a resident of the City of Marina, who
39 left a widow, Emily, and two children, Leon and Sylvia; and

1 WHEREAS, Kenneth E. Conant, born on December 6, 1921,
2 in Denver, Colorado, attended the University of Denver and the
3 University of Southern California; and

4 WHEREAS, On May 19, 1971, Mr. Conant, a correctional
5 employee, was sitting at his desk preparing to conduct a
6 disciplinary committee hearing with two prison officials when
7 they were attacked by two inmates who entered the office with
8 handmade knives, and Mr. Conant was fatally stabbed while the
9 prison officials received minor injuries; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Conant was a 20-year veteran of corrections
11 work and a resident of Salinas, who left a widow, Helen, and a
12 son, Donald; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
15 portion of State Highway Route 101 between Exit-303 305 and
16 Exit 310 in the County of Monterey as the Soledad State Prison
17 Correctional Officers Memorial Highway ~~to honor~~ honoring John
18 V. Mills, William C. Shull, Robert J. McCarthy, and Kenneth E.
19 Conant, ~~whose names shall be included in the special designation~~
20 ~~of the highway~~; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
22 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
23 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
24 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
25 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
26 further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
29 author for appropriate distribution.